

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, October 8, 2004*

## MPDC, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ANNOUNCE EXPANDED CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVE

Officials from DC and Prince George's County this past week announced three projects—including an expanded cross-border law enforcement initiative—that will work to improve the quality of life for residents who live on or near the borders of the two jurisdictions. Called “Connected Communities,” the initiatives are designed to reduce crime and improve health care and beautification efforts along the Southern and Eastern Avenue corridors. DC Mayor Anthony Williams and Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson were joined by Chief Ramsey, Prince George's County Police Chief Melvin High and US Marshal for the District of Columbia George Walsh in signing a memorandum of understanding that will allow select officers from the two jurisdictions to be deputized to take effective police actions in DC and Prince George's County. Initially, eight officers from each jurisdiction are being selected to participate in the program. They will receive special training in conducting cross-jurisdictional enforcement and meaningful community policing through joint patrols and other actions. “These initiatives will strengthen our efforts to meet the expectations and the expressed needs of the community to improve public safety along the border areas,” said Mayor Williams. “We also want to recognize the integral role being played by the US Marshals Service in this important effort.”

- ① Read the complete news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2913>

## PRELIMINARY SEPTEMBER STATISTICS SHOW CONTINUED REDUCTION IN SERIOUS CRIME

The number of serious crimes reported in DC declined again in September, continuing a downward trend of the past two years, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. When compared with September 2003, there were reductions last month in every major crime category except homicide. Assaults with a deadly weapon declined 24 percent, stolen autos fell 31 percent and sexual assaults were down by 32 percent. The number of homicides in September did increase from 14 to 22, although so far this year, homicides are down almost 20 percent. According to preliminary citywide data, total violent crime declined 16 percent in September, and property crime decreased 20 percent, for an overall reduction of 19 percent for the month. Crime was down in all seven police districts in September 2004, when compared with the same month of 2003. Through the first nine months of 2004, serious crime in DC was down 13 percent overall, including a 15 percent reduction in violent crime. All major crime categories continue to show decreases this year, including a 32 percent reduction in sexual assaults, a 15 percent decline in robberies and a 13 percent reduction in burglaries. All seven police districts are experiencing an overall reduction in crime through the first nine months of the year, with the Sixth District posting a 25 percent reduction for the January-September time period.

- ① Preliminary 2004 crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole can be reviewed at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats\\_readthis.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtml)
- ① This year's reduction in crime follows a nearly 9 percent drop in reported serious crimes in 2003, according to official data reported by the MPDC to the FBI. View 11 years of crime statistics, by police district and the city as a whole, at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats\\_annualtrends.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_annualtrends.shtml)

## HARBOR PATROL RECEIVES NEW PERSONAL WATERCRAFT TO ENHANCE ON-WATER PATROLS AND RESCUES

The MPDC has received a new personal watercraft (PWC) to assist with on-water patrols and rescues under a program that loans PWCs to law enforcement and other agencies. The Department's Harbor Patrol recently took a WaveRunner PWC on loan from Yamaha, USA, one of several manufacturers that participates in the effort. According to Lt. Alfred Durham, commanding officer of Harbor Patrol, his unit has already used the new PWC in a rescue situation that required swift response and maneuverability. "The new PWC allows us to get in close when approaching boaters who fall overboard or are injured in the water," Durham said. Among all manufacturers, the Personal Watercraft Loan Program has loaned approximately 15,000 vessels to various law enforcement, rescue and marine mammal research organizations since the program's inception in 1989. The Harbor Patrol estimates that there are close to 2,400 registered boats and 20 marinas in DC. During the summer months, it's not uncommon for as many as 500 boaters to be out on DC waters on a weekend afternoon.

## COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THIS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to raise the community's awareness of the serious problem of domestic violence. Domestic violence affects individuals and the community in many ways. The victim experiences the immediate abuse, but often suffers from long-term emotional impacts as well, including loss of self esteem, depression and a sense of helplessness. Children who observe domestic violence also experience long-term effects. Sons often grow up assuming that men abusing women—emotionally, physically or sexually—is the norm in family relationships. Daughters, too, can come into adolescence and adulthood with damaging assumptions about their right to be respected and the ability to claim their own power. Children as a whole learn that violence is the answer to their problems, and they take these issues into their community and their school. On a broader scale, the community as a whole is affected by domestic violence – through adverse economic impact, the need for significant law enforcement and court system resources, and most importantly, the perpetuation of a devastating cycle of violence. In response to this issue, the MPDC will be hosting or participating in a number of domestic violence prevention events this month. The Latino Liaison Unit is hosting an open house on October 20, in conjunction with My Sister's Place, a domestic violence shelter. The LLU will also be hosting a march and vigil on domestic violence on October 25 for the Latina/o community. Later in the month, the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit will hold a joint presentation on domestic violence with the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL). Citywide events include an October 8 vigil at Freedom Plaza and an October 23 community resource fair at the Department of Parks and Recreation headquarters, 3149 16th Street, NW.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Wreathlaying at Officers Memorial.** To commemorate its dedication in 1991, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial observes Wreathlaying Day each year on October 15th. This year's ceremony will honor 13 fallen local law enforcement officers from DC, Maryland and Virginia, including MPDC Sergeants John Ashley and Clifton Rife, who died in the line of duty earlier this year. Concerns of Police Survivors National President Shirley Gibson (mother of fallen MPDC Officer Brian Gibson) and Chief Ramsey will be keynote speakers at the ceremony, which begins at 1 pm at the Memorial, on E Street, NW, between 4th and 5th Streets. More information at [www.nleomf.com](http://www.nleomf.com).

**Testimony on Managing Demonstrations.** Chief Ramsey this week testified before the DC Council's Judiciary Committee on a proposed bill that would legislate various policies and procedures on how the MPDC manages mass demonstrations in the District. Read the Chief's statement at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2004/10/100704.shtm>

① The 21-member MPDC Harbor Patrol is responsible for overall boating safety and enforcing boating and navigational laws in DC. Learn more about the unit at:

<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborpatrol.shtm>

① The Personal Watercraft Loan Program is coordinated by the DC-based Personal Watercraft Industry Association, which is on the web at:

<http://www.pwia.org/>

① For more information about Domestic Violence Awareness Month, contact Donna Marie Alexander, the MPDC's coordinator of police-based victim advocacy, at (202) 727-3144 or via email at: [donna.alexander@dc.gov](mailto:donna.alexander@dc.gov)

① To learn more about domestic violence and the resources available to victims in DC, go to: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/dvu/dv\\_resources.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/dvu/dv_resources.shtm)

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 10/8/04
◆ 2004: 153	
◆ 2003: 192	
◆ % Change: -20.3%	
◆ Closure Rate: 56.9% (87 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 10/2/04
◆ Total: 731	
◆ Drugs: 90	
◆ Weapons: 21	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 11	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 20	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	
◆ Arrests: 53	week end. 10/2/04
◆ Curfew Violations: 49	week end. 10/5/04
◆ Truants: 67	week end. 10/5/04
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 10/6/04
◆ October: 24	
◆ September: 167	
◆ 2004 Total: 1,549	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 10/8/04
◆ 2004: 38	
◆ 2003: 54	
◆ % Change: -29.6%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**